

Bozeman Sculpture Park sprouts six more

By Kristi Niemeyer

Six new sculptures were planted in the Bozeman Sculpture Park, located behind the downtown library, in August, adding to the nine that were installed last summer as part of the Montana Invitational.

Brad Allen, who teaches sculpture at The University of Montana, selected the new crop. “I wanted gallery-quality work in terms of engagement, sophistication and richness,” he says. “And I wanted to actively try to stir things up.”

He selected an array of intriguing works by artists from western and central Montana. And, like the previous group, this selection represents a range of ages (20s to 70s), gender and perspective. “I wanted it to be very diverse, and we’re as close to that as you can get in Montana,” he says.

The new installment, which was formally unveiled with an opening celebration Aug. 25, features works by Danny Kraus, Noellynn Pepos, Steve Connell, Trey Hill, EJ Engler and Kendra McKlosky.

“To make artwork in this place surely requires that an idea pass through some portion of the historical and aesthetic Montana filter,” notes Allen. The additions to the park offer “new representations of what it means to be western, and art in dialogue with place.”

Danny Kraus, Arlee: “Three Ancient Harmonies” is a nine-foot tall steel harp form, with three dangling granite rectangles. According to Allen, the piece reflects the artist’s “whirlwind of cultural experience.”



“Three Ancient Harmonies” by Danny Kraus

Kraus worked in an Alaskan fishery and on a research ship in China, helped re-introduce big cats into the wilds of Africa and trained elephants in Oregon. His work, steeped in the language of architecture, “has physicality, but employs material and form with a more eastern sensibility ...” writes Allen.

Noellynn Pepos,

Victor: The artist, who studied as a blacksmith and metalsmith, is wrapping long, lifeless tree limbs in boundary-marker tape to create a piece that will hang overhead in the canopy. “She has a very atypical way of working with materials,” says Allen.

The densely wooded area where her piece hangs “provides a fantastic opportunity for Noellynn to ‘draw’ with fluorescent colored lines, while referencing land issues and environmental politics,” writes Allen.

Steve Connell, Charlo: Allen says Connell, who taught sculpture at UM for nearly 30 years, “has been a dominant figure in Montana sculpture. Half the people I called about this show went to UM and studied with Steve – a lot of roads led back to him.”

The sculptor and rancher is showing “Cartoon,” a 10-foot-tall, bright yellow steel sculpture that the artist says “toys with the undercurrents we tend to find in humor – the hilarious, the frivolous and the sinister.”

Trey Hill, Missoula:

The professional sculptor, who teaches at UM, shows a ceramic, concrete and epoxy piece titled “The Day You Weren’t There.” The work, which appears both biological and architectural, “deals with tree images and the idea of trimming them and controlling them for aesthetic



“Cartoon” by Steve Connell

purposes,” writes Allen.

He notes that both Montana State University and UM “have strong ceramics programs, so I wanted a strong clay presence in this show.” He appreciates the way Hill “turns fragments of symbols into compositions – almost like an equation, a gestalt.”

EJ Engler, Gallatin Gateway: This multifaceted architect, engineer, contractor and artist has crafted “the tallest sculpture in the park” – a house form perched atop four legs, with two of those connected to antiquated industrial iron wheels “like a kid’s roughshod fort.”

“His thought process is that of an artist-poet, with an eye to experience-based projects,” writes Allen.

Kendra McKlosky, Emigrant: In “Twice Removed,” McKlosky explores the reclamation of creosote oils from the site now occupied by the sculpture park. A trio of cylinders with steel rivets “show the industrial aesthetic, while framing the watershed, the elevator and the library,” says Allen.

He adds that the artist, who once worked in a Japanese toy store, “has a pop sensibility.” He also appreciates the location of her piece on the creek that flows through the park. “I’m excited to get off the trail a little.”

These six new works join sculptures by Charles Ringer, Tracy Linder, Jennifer Pulchinski, Zak Zakovi, Brian Scott, Patrick Zentz, Phoebe Knapp, Clarice Dreyer and Gary

Bates, selected by curator Terry Karson.

“It’s been a luxury coming in second (as curator) and not dealing with a blank slate,” says Allen, who views the park as an ever-evolving canvas of contemporary sculpture. “I wanted to synthesize what’s there and move forward. I wanted to see more materials in play ... to take what opportunity I have to push, prod and stretch a little bit.”

For more on the park, visit www.bozeman-sculpturepark.org.



Noellynn Pepos “draws” by wrapping tree limbs in boundary-marker tape.

Dance rehab program helps kids

The BBC News reports that in Cuba, children and young people with Down’s syndrome and various physical disabilities benefit from a unique rehabilitation program: Psicoballet.

That is the name of a dance therapy that has been used as an official medical treatment in Cuba since the 1970s. It has helped over 25,000 people feel better – physically and emotionally.

For more, visit www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-18889644.

– from the Society for the Arts in Healthcare NewsBrief, July 2012

Humanities Heroes (from page 8)

Jan Zauha is currently a professor and reference librarian at MSU Libraries, where she has worked since 1995. She leads several book groups in the Bozeman area, and has given numerous presentations at library conferences.

Zauha served on the Montana Book Award committee and currently serves on the One Book–One Bozeman committee and organizes and coordinates the Friends of the MSU Library’s book group.

Missoula-area Humanities Heroes

The final batch of Humanities Heroes will be honored at 4 p.m. Oct. 6 at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Missoula.

In 1976, **Stan Cohen** established Pictorial Histories Publishing Inc., which has published over 325 books on a wide range of historical subjects. He was the founding director of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula and the Museum of Mountain Flying.

He spent 20 years on the Missoula Historical Preservation Commission and donated his Missoula historical collection to the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula.

Monica Grable is artistic director of the Bitterroot Performing Arts Series, which provides performing arts programming for large and varied audiences in the Bitterroot Valley. She brings in top-of-the-line artists, including popular and classical musicians, Irish actors and Canadian puppeteers, to perform and teach master classes.

Mark Johnson, a fourth generation Montanan from Great Falls, founded the World Affairs Council of Montana; is a professor and a member of Montana Osher Lifelong Institute; and has served on the board of the Humanities Montana, as vice president of the national U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy and as vice-chair for the national World Affairs Councils of America.

Cherie Newman creates, hosts, records and promotes humanities programming on Montana Public Radio, where she produces a weekly half-hour program about writing and publishing in the West, “The Write Question.”

Newman has expanded the availability of locally produced humanities programming by creating podcasts of several popular MTPR programs, and has pioneered Internet technology at the station.

Inez Ratekin Herrig (deceased) served as head librarian of the

Libby-based Lincoln County Free Library from 1929 to 1989. She devoted her life and energies to libraries and museums and promoted the humanities daily in many ways.

Mark Sherouse was the executive director of Humanities Montana from 1995 until 2009. During that time, he began blogging and writing an e-newsletter and helped build a large system of communications to spread humanities across this vast state. He pioneered an agreement with the Library of Congress to be a home for the Montana Center for the Book, which led to the Festival of the Book in Missoula and a proliferation of book festivals.

During his tenure as executive director, Humanities Montana gave the first Governor’s Humanities Awards, started One Book Montana, and received the Daniel Boorstin Prize from the Library of Congress, among other honors.

Lisa Simon is creator and producer of “Reflections West,” a five-minute public radio show about the culture, history and literature of the American West. She solicits articles on “literary advocacy” for the Montana Art Council’s bi-monthly publication, *State of the Arts*; has coordinated Montana’s Festival of the Book events; and is a facilitator for Humanities Montana’s “Civic Reflection” program.

Bruce Sievers served as executive director of Humanities Montana from 1972 to 1974, when he left to found the California Council for the Humanities. Since 2002, he has served as Visiting Scholar at the Haas Center while working on his book, *Civil Society, Philanthropy and the Fate of the Commons*, published in 2010.

Hal Stearns taught history for 34 years at high schools in Germany and Missoula, and at The University of Montana. He was named Montana Teacher of the Year and Montana Outstanding U.S. History Teacher. He has served as a board member of Humanities Montana, is a popular member of the Speakers Bureau, and is a recognized expert on the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Shawn Wathen co-owns Chapter One Book Store in Hamilton, a key cultural, social and literary hub of the Bitterroot Valley, and has taught the Bitterroot Public Library’s Marjorie A. Crawford Literature Seminars for a decade, focusing primarily on works in translation.

He is on the board of directors of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and the American Booksellers Association’s Advisory Council.